

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03722 141031Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3319

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3722

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON FROM CHARGE

DEPART PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR EILTS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON TO EGYPT

1. PRIMIN HEGAZY PRESENTED HIS RESIGNATION AND THAT OF HIS CABINET TO PRESIDENT SADAT EVENING APRIL 13. CURRENT SPECULATION ON NEW CABINET (BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY), WHICH PRESS SAYS WILL BE ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY AND SWORN IN ON THURSDAY, INDICATES HEGAZY WILL NOT BE ASKED TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT.

2. IN VIEW OF THIS CABINET RESHUFFLE, WHICH ALL RUMORS INDICATE WILL INVOLVE NEW PERSONALITIES ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, I QUESTION THE VALUE OF YOUR TRIP WITH THE OBJECTIVES AS OUTLINED REFTEL ON DATES PRESENTLY SCHEDULED. NEW MINISTERS WILL NOT YET HAVE TAKEN OFFICE AND NEXT ECHELON OF OFFICIALS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE IN POSITION TO MAKE EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION ON MATTERS IN WHICH YOU WILL BE INTERESTED.

3. I BELIEVE YOUR VISIT WOULD BE MORE TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE IF IT CAME A FEW WEEKS LATER WHEN THE NEW MEN HAVE HAD
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A CHANCE TO GET THEIR FEET ON THE GROUND. IT WOULD FEATURE THE ADDED ATTRACTION OF HAVING A SENIOR US OFFICIAL ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE APPEAR EARLY ON THE SCENE WITH IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS AT A TIME WHEN NEW POLICIES WERE BEING WORKED OUT. THE US WOULD STAND TO GAIN FROM SUCH A VIST IN TERMS OF ITS POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC IMPACT.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REACTION TO THIS RECOMMENDATION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE SINCE WE WILL EITHER HAVE TO CALL OFF CERTAIN EVENTS OR TRY TO ARRANGE SUBSTITUTE MEETINGS, PROBABLY AT LOWER LEVELS (EXCEPT FOR PRESIDENT), IN ORDER TO FIRM UP YOUR PROGRAM STARTING TOMORROW.
MAESTRONE

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